

Hugh was born in Lismore on 3rd Feb 1887, the son of Hugh Quinn Duncan and his wife Hester Harriet, nee King. In 1912 he married Janet Gordon MacDowell.

Hugh had a very chequered career in the military commencing with his service in the AN&MEF. He enlisted on 11th August 1914 and then returned from Rabaul as an escort for prisoners in November 1914. It would appear that he deserted whilst in Sydney and was discharged as "services no longer required" on 15th November 1914.

He then attempted to enlist in the AIF on 28th December 1915 but was discharged "at wife's request" on 21st Feb 1916, his wife advising that they had two young children and he had already been absent for a period.

He again enlisted in the AIF on 7th August 1916, initially with the Dubbo Training Battalion, regimental number 6732, and then transferring as part of the 17th Reinforcements, 24th Battalion with a new regimental number, 6196. He left Sydney aboard the ARGYLLSHIRE, disembarking in Devonport on 10th Jan 1917. Prior to disembarkation, Hugh was charged with being absent without leave, having been 'brought on board in custody' and sentenced to 160 hours detention.

He had two further periods of AWL in June 1916 before leaving the UK for France to join his battalion on 16th July. He was wounded in September and had several more periods of AWL culminating in him facing a Field Court Martial for desertion on 29th July 1918. He was eventually found guilty of being AWL between 19th April until his arrest on 1st July. He was sentenced to two years in hard labour.

He returned to Australia aboard the PLASSY, embarking on 5th September 1919 and disembarking in Sydney on 30th October. He was discharged from the AIF on 18th December 1919.

In 1924 he was convicted of misappropriating monies whilst Postmaster at Condobolin and sentenced to 2 years hard labour at the Goulburn Gaol.

He served two periods in the CMF at the outbreak of World War 2, the first as a sapper with the RAE from 26th Feb 1940 till 14th June 1940, service number Q191203 and the second as a corporal with the Army Pay Corps from 24th June 1940 till 20th December 1941, service number Q194972.

Hugh died in Brisbane on 14th June 1945.